

20 March 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM : DCI
SUBJECT : Intelligence Precs

USSR: The first D class ballistic missile submarine is expected to become operational this year. The USSR, however, may have an incentive to stop producing the D class submarine and follow it with another class carrying more missiles.

So far, two D class submarines have been launched. The first one, launched in late 1971, should finish its sea trials this spring.

--It carries 12 [] ballistic missiles with a ^{demonstrated} range of [] nautical miles.

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--The range of the missile will greatly increase the potential patrol zone of the D class over the Y class, and complicate western antisubmarine defenses.

In comparison, the Y class, of which there are now [] operational, first appeared in 1966.

DD/S&T
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--It carries [] ballistic mis-
siles with a range of [] nautical
miles.

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--Four Y class units are continuously
on missile patrol, three off the US east
coast and one off the west coast.

Under the Interim Agreement, the USSR
can build up to 62 modern ballistic missile sub-
marines with 950 submarine ballistic missile
launchers.

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We have no evidence of just how the Soviets
will elect to exercise their options. If they
desire to approach the number of launchers per-
mitted by the treaty, they will have to cease
producing the 12 tube D class submarines and
start producing a new class with 16 or more
tubes, presumably incorporating []
a follow-on missile.

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A large new construction hall at Severodvinsk
shipyard near Murmansk may bear on this question.
The new hall was begun in 1970 and may be ready
for use in 1974. We do not know how the new hall
will be used.

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--One possibility is that the Soviets will cease construction of the D class by 1975 and that the new hall will be used for construction of a new class of ballistic missile submarines.

--The first unit of a new class could be launched at the earliest by 1977.

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